

In the Abstract:

Please rewrite the abstract as follows (a separate sheet containing the new abstract is attached hereto):

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TOTAL 0978760

--A method of determining a total amount of stock material passing through a cushioning conversion machine over a period of time during which a plurality of three-dimensional cushioning products are made. The method includes the acts of providing a sheet stock material; converting the sheet stock material into a plurality of the three-dimensional cushioning products with the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; monitoring the passage of stock material through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; storing in a computer memory information regarding the total amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; and retrieving the stored information, the retrieved stored information providing an indication of the total amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time. The converting step is accomplished by a cushioning conversion machine including a conversion assembly and a stock supply assembly, sheet stock material being supplied from the stock supply assembly to the conversion assembly.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 through 5 and add new claims 6 through 21 as follows:

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6. (New) A method of determining a total amount of stock material passing through a cushioning conversion machine over a period of time during which a plurality of three-dimensional cushioning products are made, said method comprising the acts of:

providing a sheet stock material;
converting the sheet stock material into a plurality of the three-dimensional cushioning products with the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time;
monitoring the passage of stock material through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time;

storing in a computer memory information regarding the total amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; and

retrieving the stored information, the retrieved stored information providing an indication of the total amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; and

wherein the converting step is accomplished by a cushioning conversion machine including a conversion assembly and a stock supply assembly, sheet stock material being supplied from the stock supply assembly to the conversion assembly.

7. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the converting act is accomplished by a cushioning conversion machine in which a feed assembly is positioned downstream of a forming assembly.

8. (New) A method as set forth in claim 7 wherein said monitoring act includes tracking the strip of dunnage produced by the conversion assembly at a location downstream of the forming assembly.

9. (New) A method as set forth in claim 7 wherein said converting act is accomplished by a conversion machine in which the feed assembly includes a rotating member having an angular movement which directly corresponds to a length dimension of the strip of dunnage and wherein said tracking comprises monitoring the angular movement of the rotating member.

10. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the storing act is accomplished by a non-volatile memory.

11. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the retrieving act comprises transmitting the stored information to a remote terminal.

12. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the retrieving act comprises transmitting the stored information to a personal computer.

13. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein said retrieving act includes automatically downloading the stored information to a remote processor.

14. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein said retrieving act includes using a visual display to view the stored information.

15. (New) A method as set forth in claim 6 wherein said providing act includes providing sheet stock material that is biodegradable, recyclable, and reusable.

16. (New) A method as set forth in claim 15 wherein said providing act includes providing sheet stock material that is Kraft paper.

17. (New) A method as set forth in claim 16 wherein said providing act includes providing sheet stock material that comprises multiple plies of Kraft paper.

18. (New) A method as set forth in claim 17 wherein said providing act includes providing sheet stock material that comprises a roll of superimposed plies of Kraft paper.

19. (New) A method as set forth in claim 18 wherein said providing act includes providing a roll that is approximately thirty inches wide.

20. (New) A method of determining a total cumulative length of three-dimensional cushioning products produced by a cushioning conversion machine over a period of time, comprising the steps of:

using the cushioning conversion machine to convert the stock material into a plurality of the three-dimensional cushioning products during the period of time;

monitoring the length of the cushioning products produced by the cushioning conversion machine during the conversion of the stock material into the cushioning products;

generating signals in accordance with the monitored lengths of the cushioning products produced by the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time;